

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: IAEA, TECH, IN, US, PARM
SUBJECT: SUSPENSION OF SAFEGUARDS PURSUANT TO SECTION 16 OF
US/IAEA/INDIA TRILATERAL SAFEGUARDS TRANSFER AGREEMENT

FOLLOWING RECD FROM BOMBAY DATED MARCH 23, 1978 BEING RPTD TO
YOU.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL UE BOMBAY 737

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: IAEA, TECH, IN, US, PARM
SUBJ: SUSPENSION OF SAFEGUARDS PURSUANT TO SECTION 16 OF
US/IAEA/INDIA TRILATERAL SAFEGUARDS TRANSFER AGREEMENT

REF: VIENNA 2759

1. I AM RELUCTANT TO COMMENT ON REFTEL BECAUSE I HAVE NO FIRST-
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HAND KNOWLEDGE OF THIS ACTION WHICH OCCURRED BEFORE MY ARRIVAL
AND MY FILES CONTAIN NEITHER AN ACCOUNT OF IT NOR VIENNA A-313.

2. NEVERTHELESS I'M INCLINED TO SPEAK UP BECAUSE THIS PROBLEM
HAS EARMARKS OF BEING POTENTIALLY VERY TROUBLESOME. SPECIFICALLY,
I RECALL THAT WHEN BUY-BACK WAS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION IN
LATE 1976, IAEA SCIENTISTS WERE INSISTENT ON RESERVING A SMALL

QUANTITY OF SPENT FUEL FOR INDIAN RESEARCH PURPOSES. WE DEMURRED AND SETHNA TRIED TO TALK SCIENTISTS OUT OF IT. BUT SCIENTISTS WERE ADAMENT AND POINT NEVER RESOLVED AS THE ENTIRE BUY-BACK PROPOSAL BECAME DORMANT.

3. SETHNA POINTED OUT TO HIS SCIENTIFIC COLLEAGUES THAT IF US DECIDED TO TAKE BACK ALL OF TARAPUR SPENT FUEL, INDIA WOULD HAVE NO DIRECT USE FOR RESULTS OF RESEARCH ON IT BECAUSE THE SPENT FUEL WOULD NOT BE RECYCLED IN INDIA. THE SCIENTISTS, HOWEVER, ARGUED THAT THEY HAD NO OTHER READY SOURCE OF HIHGLY IRRADIATED SPENT FUEL (IT HAS EXPOSURE IN TERMS OF MEGAWATT DAYS THREE TIMES GREATER THAN THAT OF FUEEL FROM CADU REACTORS). THEY MAINTAINED THAT SINCE ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE FOR RESEARCH ON IT THE PROGRAM SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT FOR GENERAL BACK'97,\$ 07409 3 . I SUSPECT SUCH RESEARCH MIGHT POSSIBLY BE OF USE IN CONNECTION WITH BREEDR PROGRAM, ALTHOUGH I CANNOT CONFIRM THIS HYPOTHESIS.

4. CONGEN WOULD POINT OUT THAT GREAT MAJORITY OF NUCLEAR SCIENTISTS IN BOMBAY HAVE BEEN STRONGLY OPPOSED TO FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS ON GRAOUND THAT IN SOME WAY THIS WOULD INTERFERE WITH INDIA'S PROGRAM OF PEACEFUL NUCLEAR RESEARCH. THEY ARE CONSTANTLY TRYING TO FIND WAYS TO DEMONSTRATE WE ARE TRYING TO CUT OFF PERFECTLY LEGITIMATE RESEARCH WHICH IS NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE INDIA'S GOAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF USING THORIUM IN BREEDER REACTORS TOWARD THE END OF THIS CENTURY. THIS SUGGESTS THAT WE SHOULD BE WARY IN ABSENCE OF POWERFUL REASONS TO CONTRARY OF TERMINATING APRIL 1975 ARRANGEMENTS. COURTNEY UNQUOTE GOHEEN

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